

Message Text

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ORIGIN ITFE-00

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 DHA-02 ORM-01 SSO-00 AID-05 HEW-02

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO CG FORT CHAFFEE IMMEDIATE

INDIANTOWN GAP MILITARY RESERVATION PA IMMEDIATE

INFO CG CAMP PENDLETON CA IMMEDIATE

CINC PACREP GUAM/TTPI IMMEDIATE

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FOR CIVIL COORDINATOR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF

SUBJECT: GUIDANCE ON COUNSELING REPATRIATES

FOR SENIOR CIVIL COORDINATORS

1. REPATRIATES IN CONUS CAMPS SHOULD BE COUNSELLED THAT THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION TO ALLOW SOME 1,600 WOULD BE REPATRIATES ON GUAM TO RETURN TO VIETNAM ON THE THUONG TIN I WAS MADE PRIMARILY IN THE INTEREST OF THE GUAM REPATRIATE GROUP WHO HAVE WAITED IN DESPARATION FOR OVER FOUR MONTHS TO RETURN HOME.

2. THIS GROUP IS OF ONE MIND TO REPATRIATE BY SHIP. THEY BELIEVE THEY HAVE ADEQUATE, ALTHOUGH UNOFFICIAL, ASSURANCES

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FROM VIETNAMESE AUTHORITIES THROUGH INTERMEDIARIES IN

PARIS THAT THEY WILL BE ALLOWED TO ENTER A VIETNAMESE PORT.

3. THEY HAVE ALSO STATED THAT THEY ARE RETURNING BY SHIP OF THEIR OWN VOLITION AND THAT THEY WILL NOT HOLD THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT OR ANY OTHER PARTY RESPONSIBLE FOR CONSEQUENCES OF THEIR ACTION, EITHER IN TRANSIT, OR AFTER RETURN TO VIETNAM.

4. SINCE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN VIETNAM AND THE

UNITED STATES HAVE NOT BEEN RE-ESTABLISHED AND MAY NOT BE RE-ESTABLISHED IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE, THE US GOVERNMENT CAN GIVE NO ASSURANCES OF SAFETY TO REPATRIATES RETURNING BY THIS MEANS.

5. THE SHIP HAS BEEN INSPECTED BY THE US NAVY AND HAS BEEN DECLARED SEAWORTHY. AS REQUESTED BY THE GUAM REPATRIATES, THE SHIP, A 6,275 TON COASTAL CARGO VESSEL WILL BE REPAIRED (MOTORS AND GENERATORS OVERHAULED), CONFIGURATED TO CARRY PASSENGERS, AND EQUIPPED WITH MODERN NAVIGATIONAL EQUIPMENT PRIOR TO DEPARTURE FROM GUAM. AN ADEQUATE SUPPLY OF FUEL, FOOD, AND WATER WILL ALSO BE FURNISHED FOR THE TWO WEEK VOYAGE TO VIETNAM AND FOR EMERGENCIES. THE U.S. WILL SURVEIL THE SHIP'S PASSAGE TO VIETNAMESE TERRITORIAL WATERS AS PROTECTION AGAINST POSSIBLE TYPHOON HAZARDS IN THE WESTERN PACIFIC AND SOUTH CHINA SEA. ONCE ARRIVING AT THIS POINT, THE SHIP AND PASSENGERS WILL HAVE TO PROCEED ENTIRELY AT THEIR OWN RISK. AMONG THE REPATRIATE GROUP ON GUAM, IT HAS BEEN DETERMINED THAT THERE IS A FULLY QUALIFIED AND COMPETENT CREW TO PILOT THE SHIP.

6. THE SHIP CAN CARRY MORE REPATRIATES THAN ARE PRESENTLY ON GUAM; AND THE GUAM GROUP IS WILLING TO ACCEPT ADDITIONAL FELLOW COUNTRYMEN ABOARD, PROVIDED THESE ADDITIONS DO NOT DELAY THE SHIP'S DEPARTURE IN TWO OR THREE WEEKS. FOR THESE REASONS, BONIFIDE REPATRIATES CURRENTLY IN CONUS CAMPS WILL BE GIVEN THE OPTION OF RETURNING TO VIETNAM VIA THE THUONG TIN I OR WAITING FOR THE UNHCR TO ARRANGE A FORMAL REPATRIATION PLAN WITH VIETNAMESE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AUTHORITIES.

7. ALL REPATRIATES OFFERED THIS OPTION MUST HAVE SUBMITTED THEIR FORMAL REPATRIATION REQUESTS TO THE UNHCR PRIOR TO AUGUST 1, 1975. THIS CUT OFF DATE IS NECESSARY TO INSURE THAT PAPERWORK FOR ALL SHIP RETURNEES HAS BEEN RECEIVED BY VIETNAMESE OFFICIALS PRIOR TO THE SHIP'S DEPARTURE FOR VIETNAM. TO MAXIMIZE THE CHANCES OF A FAVORABLE RECEPTION

UPON ARRIVAL IN VIETNAM, IT IS CONSIDERED DESIREABLE THAT VIETNAMESE AUTHORITIES HAVE FULL BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION ABOUT ALL PASSENGERS.

8. QUALIFIED REPATRIATES AT PENDLETON, CHAFFEE, AND INDIANTOWN GAP SHOULD BE ADVISED OF THEIR RIGHT TO EXERCISE THE SHIP OPTION. SINCE TIME IS SHORT, THEY MUST MAKE A DECISION NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 14, 1975. THOSE DESIRING THE SHIP RETURN WILL BE FLOWN TO GUAM AT US GOVERNMENT EXPENSE, BUT ONCE ON GUAM, THEY WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO CHANGE THEIR MINDS, REPEAT NOT PERMITTED TO

CHANGE THEIR MINDS SINCE GUAM WILL BE CLOSED AFTER THE SHIP HAS DEPARTED.

9. REPATRIATES SHOULD ALSO BE WARNED OF POSSIBLE RISKS AND MADE TO CLEARLY UNDERSTAND THAT THE SHIP WILL BE TRAVELLING UNDER ITS OWN AUTHORITY WITHOUT OFFICIAL PROTECTION OF THE UNITED STATES OR THE UNHCR. REPATRIATES SHOULD ALSO BE FULLY COGNIZANT OF THE FACT THAT VIETNAMESE AUTHORITIES HAVE NOT GIVEN ANY OFFICIAL SANCTION TO THE SHIP RETURN AND THAT IT IS UNCERTAIN WHETHER THE THUONG TIN I WILL BE PERMITTED TO LAND WHEN IT ARRIVES.

10. LISTS OF QUALIFIED REPATRIATES DESIRING RETURN BY SHIP SHOULD BE FORWARDED TO IATF BY COB OCTOBER 8, 1975, TO EXPEDITE TRANSPORTATION ARRANGEMENTS TO GUAM.

11. REPATRIATES WHO DO NOT CHOOSE OR WHO ARE UNQUALIFIED FOR THE SHIP OPTION SHOULD BE ADVISED THAT THE UNHCR WILL CONTINUE ITS EFFORTS TO ARRANGE REPATRIATION THROUGH EXISTING DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS. THEY SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO ACCEPT SPONSORSHIPS WHILE AWAITING FOR UN EFFORTS TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SUCCEED SINCE A REFUGEE CAN BE REPATRIATED AS EASILY OUT OF CAMP AS IN CAMP.

12. INDIVIDUAL COUNSELLING EFFORTS AS PER THIS GUIDANCE WILL BE ASSISTED BY A QUALIFIED KNOWLEDGEABLE OFFICER FROM IATF/OSC. ETA AND DETAILS WILL FOLLOW. KISSINGER

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